UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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FLIESLER MEYER LLP
650 CALIFORNIA STREET
14TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108

EXAMINER
PHAM, LUU T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/828,991	HILBERT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LUU PHAM	2437	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>05 April 2010</u>.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-11,13,15-39,41,43-67,69,71-84 and 91-96</u> is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-11, 13, 15-39, 41, 43-67, 69, 71-84, and 91-96</u> is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application

is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37

CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been

withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/05/2010 has

been entered.

2.   As per instant Amendment, Claims 12, 14, 40, 42, 68, 70, and 85-90 were previously

cancelled; Claims 1, 29, and 57 are independent claims. Claims 1-11, 13, 15-39, 41, 43-67,

69, 71-84, and 91-96 have been examined and are pending.

This Action is made Non-FINAL.

Response to Arguments

3.   The objection to the specification, as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the

claimed subject matter in claims 1, 29, and 57, is withdrawn as the claims have been

amended.

4.   The rejections of claims 1, 29, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are

withdrawn as the claims have been amended.

5.   The objection to the specification, as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter in claims 91, 94, and 96, is maintained as Applicants' arguments are not persuasive (see section 6 below).

6.   The rejections of claims 91, 94, and 96 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are maintained as Applicants' arguments are not persuasive. Applicants point out that *"support for the limitation 'automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved' can be found in paragraphs 23, 34 and 52 of the Specification."* However, the discussions in paragraphs [0023], [0034], and [0052] are not sufficient support for the claimed limitation *"after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server."* At most, the aforementioned paragraphs discuss *"the proxy server maintains login credentials which enable it to access data stored on the file sources,"* *"proxy server 125 logs in and interacts with the file source,"* and *"the proxy server 125, using the internal credentials provided by the sharer of the file, modifies the file."* Nowhere does the specification disclose automatically logs into the file source by suing the credential and updates the file in the original location after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation as claimed in claims 91, 94, and 96. The Examiner respectfully requests the Applicants to point out where in the specification support can be found for the limitations in question above.

7.   Applicants' arguments in the instant Amendment, filed on 04/05/2010, with respect to

limitations listed below, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants' arguments:

a. *"Claim 1 allows access to the original file on the file sharer's desktop to a remote*

user. In contrast, Parker uploads the file to a shared location and transmits the

updated versions to the recipients as revisions are made."

b. *"Nowhere in Parker does the server use the credentials of the original file sharer*

to actually update the original file."

c. *"[B]oth Gong and Debry fail to disclose that the proxy stores a set of credentials*

of the file sharer and that the proxy server uses these credentials to access the file

and update it with modifications made to the proxy, as defined in Claim 1."

The Examiner disagrees due to the following reasons:

a. In direct file access mode, Parker allows access to the original file on the file

manager's computer (i.e., file sharer's desktop) to a file accessor (i.e., remote

user) *(par. 0034; Fig. 1; file manager 102 interacts with computer 110 via input*

and output communicated through I/O module 112. (See FIG. 1.) The file

manager identifies a file 222 (resident on a hard disk or other media of storage

114 of FIG. 1) to which he or she wishes to authorize access by a file accessor;

par. 0042; Fig. 1; in such a variation of system 100, as an example, computer 140

can connect to computer 110 via network connection 14 for direct file access,

omitting server 170; see also pars. 0068-0069 and 0092-0095; direct file access

to file manager's computer from the remote user). The Examiner respectfully

suggests that the claims be further amended to distinguish the claimed invention

over prior art.

b. Parker does disclose using the credentials of the original file sharer to actually

update the original file as claimed in claim 1 *(pars. 0034-0037; Figs. 4-5; the file*

manager indicates whether file accessor 198 is a viewer authorized to view the

file or an editor authorized to modify the file; par. 0048; only persons granted a

specific level of authorization are able to exercise that authorization; passing the

file reference through a one-way cryptographic function (e.g., including a user

ID, a file ID, and a time ID at the input); password or passphrase is used for

authentication; pars. 0081-0087; file manager 102 can designate file accessor

198 as a viewer or editor; see also pars. 0092-0095).

8.   Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 1-11, 13, 15-39, 41, 43-67, 69, 71-84, and 91-

96 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

9.   The Specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the

claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Corrections of the

following are required:

   Claims 91, 94, and 96 recited the limitation *"after receiving the modifications to the*

proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and

updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to

reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server;" (emphasis

added).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

10.   The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of
> making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to
> which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the
> best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

11.   **Claims 92, 94, and 96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph**, as failing to

comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter

which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one

skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had

possession of the claimed invention.

- **Regarding claims 92, 94, and 96**; claims 92, 94, and 96 recite the limitation *"after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server."* However, the aforementioned limitation is not discussed in the specification. Applicants point out that *"support for the limitation 'automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved' can be found in paragraphs 23, 34 and 52 of the Specification."* However, the discussions in paragraphs [0023], [0034], and [0052] are not sufficient support for the claimed limitation *"after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server."* At most, the aforementioned paragraphs discuss *"the proxy server maintains login credentials which enable it to access data stored on the file sources,"* *"proxy server 125 logs in and interacts with the file source,"* and *"the proxy server 125, using the internal credentials provided by the sharer of the file, modifies the file."* Nowhere does the specification disclose automatically logs into the file source by suing the credential and updates the file in the original location after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation as claimed in claims 91, 94, and 96. The Examiner respectfully requests the Applicants to point out where in the specification support can be found for the limitations in question above. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

12.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming
> the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

13.   **Claims 29-39, 41, 43-56 and 93-94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph**, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- **Regarding claim 29**, claim 29 recites the limitation *"the proxy"* in lines 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 27. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purpose of applying art, the Examiner interprets the aforementioned limitation to mean *"the proxy representation."*

- **Regarding claims 30-38, 41, 43-48, 50-51, and 53-56**, claims **30-38, 41, 43-48, 50-51, and 53-56** recite the limitation *"the proxy"* in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purpose of applying art, the Examiner interprets the aforementioned limitation to mean *"the proxy server."*

- **Regarding claims 30-39, 41, 43-56, and 93-94**, claims 30-39, 41, 43-56, and 93-94 are dependent on claim 29, and therefore inherit the 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph issues of the independent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

14.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another
filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an
application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent,
except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects
for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international
application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English
language.

15.   **Claims 1, 29, 57, and 91-96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)** as being anticipated by

Parker et al., (hereinafter "Parker"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0010607, filed on

October 31, 2003.

- **Regarding claim 1**, Parker discloses a method for sharing files with remote

users, the method comprising:

accepting, at a proxy server, a request from a file sharer to share a file in an

original file location of the file sharer with a remote user *(pars. 0037-0043 and 0090-0095;*

Figs. 4-5 and 9-13; access server 170 receives data of file 222 through network file

transfer interface 172. Server 170 stores the data in storage 174, from which file accessor

198 can eventually obtain it to view or edit file 222, depending on his or her level of

authorization), the file located at a file source inside an internal private network of the file

sharer, said private network having a firewall *(par. 0041; Fig. 1; a firewall-type module*

can be implemented to detect the presence of a file attachment in a message, just before

transmission via network connection 14);

generating a proxy representation on the proxy server *(pars. 0031, 0040-0045,*

0059, 0081-0087, and 0109; Figs. 1-2 and 7-19; wherein at least step 242: 'create

reference to file' and step 740: 'copy and compress file to access server'; if address 226 is

authorized for direct file access, process 242 creates a reference to file 222; a file

reference can be a hyperlink that allows user to access to the shared file; file accessor 198

can receive message 224 from the file manager to view or edit file 222), wherein the proxy

representation enables remote access to modify the file in the original location inside the

private network *(par. 0034; Fig. 1; file manager 102 interacts with computer 110 via input*

and output communicated through I/O module 112. (See FIG. 1.) The file manager

identifies a file 222 (resident on a hard disk or other media of storage 114 of FIG. 1) to

which he or she wishes to authorize access by a file accessor; par. 0042; Fig. 1; in such a

variation of system 100, as an example, computer 140 can connect to computer 110 via

network connection 14 for direct file access, omitting server 170; see also pars. 0068-0069

and 0092-0095; direct file access to file manager's computer from the remote user),

wherein the proxy representation contains location information used by the proxy server to

locate the file inside said private network *(pars. 0031, 0040-0045, 0076-0078 and 0081-*

0087; Figs. 1-2; a file reference can be a hyperlink; it includes both human-readable

indicia (e.g., a file name) and associated machine-readable indicia (e.g., a network address

from which the file can be retrieved); a file reference can consist of just text identifying a

network address, which a file accessor can enter into a suitable field (e.g., an address field

of a Web browser) to retrieve the file), and wherein the proxy representation contains

stored credentials of the file sharer that are needed to access the file on the file source

(pars. 0034-0037; the file manager indicates whether file accessor 198 is a viewer authorized to view the file or an editor authorized to modify the file; par. 0048; only persons granted a specific level of authorization are able to exercise that authorization; passing the file reference through a one-way cryptographic function (e.g., including a user ID, a file ID, and a time ID at the input); password or passphrase is used for authentication; pars. 0081-0087; file manager 102 can designate file accessor 198 as a viewer or editor; see also pars. 0092-0095);

accessing the proxy representation by the remote user that resides externally with respect to the internal private network *(pars. 0031, 0040-0045, 0076-0078 and 0085-0086; Figs. 1-2; accessor can access the shared file using a file reference; the file reference may consist of just text identifying a network address or a hyperlink)*, wherein the remote user submits one or more modifications to the file by accessing the proxy representation on the proxy server *(pars. 0035 and 0101-0129; Figs. 1-3 and 9-19; user B edits the shared file to version v1 from version v0)*;

receiving the one or more modifications to the file via the proxy representation *(pars. 0101-0129; Figs. 9-19; server 990 maintains a separate file data set 1220; user B edits the file to rev 1; user A changes shared file from 1 to rev 2; and user D modifies shared file from rev 3 to rev 4)*; and

using the credentials of the file sharer to update the file in the original location inside the internal private network *(Parker: pars. 0034-0037, 0048, 0081-0087, and 0092-0095; Figs. 4-5; the file manager indicates whether file accessor 198 is a viewer authorized to view the file or an editor authorized to modify the file; password or*

passphrase is used for authentication; pars. 0081-0087; file manager 102 can designate file accessor 198 as a viewer or editor) based on the modifications to the proxy representation received at the proxy server *(Parker: pars. 0101-0129; Figs. 9-19; user B's computer 1030 and user C's computer 1440 retrieve data 1932 of the file's full contents at 'rev 4' because neither file data set 1034 of computer 1030 nor file data set 1530 of computer 1440 include the file at the immediately previous 'rev 3')* wherein the proxy server updates the file by using the location information contained in the proxy representation *(pars. 0031, 0040-0045, 0076-0078, 0085-0086, and 0101-0129; Figs. 9-19; User A's computer 1020 retrieves delta data from server 990; rev 0 of the shared file is replaced by rev 1 modified by user B; similarly, rev 3 of the shared file is updated to obtain rev 4 edited by user D; see also pars. 0034, 0042, 0068-0069, and 0092-0095; Fig. 1)*;

wherein after the updating, when the file sharer accesses the file in the original location, changes to the proxy representation made by the remote user are reflected in the file in the original location *(pars. 0118-0120 and 0123-0129; Figs. 9-19; User A's computer 1020 retrieves delta data from server 990; rev 0 of the shared file is replaced by rev 1 modified by user B; similarly, rev 3 of the shared file is updated to obtain rev 4 edited by user D)*.

- **Regarding claim 29**, claim 29 is similar in scope to claim 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 57**, claim 57 is similar in scope to claims 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 91**, Parker discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising notifying the file sharer prior to updating the file in the original location to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation *(pars. 0118 and 0124; Figs. 13 and 19; user A accesses 'rev 1' data from server 990 via a file reference in e-mail message 1240)*.

- **Regarding claim 92**, Parker discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the proxy server, after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server *(pars. 0045-0048, 0070-0075, and 0110-0129; Figs. 9- 19; only persons granted a specific level of authorization are able to exercise that authorization; server 990 can patches the original 'rev 0' and to replace 'rev 0' by 'rev 1'; then patches the resulting 'rev 1' state of the file with 'rev 2' delta data in data set 994; and then patches the resulting 'rev 2' state of the file with the 'rev 3' delta data, also in data set 994)*.

- **Regarding claims 93-94**, claims 93-94 are similar in scope to claims 91-92 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 95-96**, claims 95-96 are similar in scope to claims 91-92 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

17.   This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent

any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to

point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at

the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability

of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C.

103(a).

18.   **Claims 1-11, 13, 15-16, 19-39, 41, 43-44, 47-67, 69, 71-72, 75-84, and 91-96 are rejected**

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gong, U.S. Patent Publication No.

2004/0064733, in view of Rice, III., (hereinafter "Rice"), U.S. Patent Publication No.

2002/0174010, published on November 21, 2002.

   •   **Regarding claim 1**, Gong discloses a method for sharing files with remote

users, the method comprising:

accepting, at a proxy server, a request from a file sharer to share a file in an

original file location of the file sharer with a remote user *(pars. 0009, 0020, 0029, and*

0031-0034; Fig. 2; user sends emails with attachments through email client interface;

Project/Information Management Server (IMS) receives the attachment files or documents

along with identification information (descriptor and locator); [location where the IMS

stores attachment files is considered as original location of the file sharer]), the file

located at a file source inside an internal private network of the file sharer, said private

network having a firewall *(par. 0009; ; Project/Information Management Server (IMS) can*

be installed inside or outside companies' firewalls);

generating a proxy representation on the proxy server *(pars. 0009, 0031-0034,*

and 0036-0038; Fig. 2; a unique attachment descriptor and locator will be generated to

identify the save attachment; a version controlled copy of the original attachment from the

IMS), wherein the proxy representation enables remote access to modify the file in the

original location inside the private network *(pars. 0009, 0031-0034, and 0036-0038; Fig.*

2; the IMS will pass the version controlled file(s) back to Adapter Engine, then to recipient

local machine; the recipient can modify the file(s) in his/her local machine and check in the

modified version through email; IMS will manage and log all check-in, checkout and

modification activities related to the attachment, and maintain one updated master copy;

the Information Management server will store one master copy of the original file(s), and

all modification will be checked against the master version and get update), wherein the

proxy representation contains location information used by the proxy server to locate the

file inside said private network *(pars. 0009 and 0032-0033; a unique attachment descriptor*

and locator will be generated to identify the saved attachment, and the original e-mail will

include the newly created descriptor and locator in its message body and be sent to

recipients through normal mail servers; adapter/server engine passes the attachment files

or documents along with identification information (descriptor and locator) to

Project/Information Management Server);

  accessing the proxy representation by the remote user that resides externally with

respect to the internal private network *(pars. 0009 and 0036-0038; Fig. 2; recipient(s) can*

access the attachment(s) directly through Client Information Management Web Interface),

wherein the remote user submits one or more modifications to the file by accessing the

proxy representation on the proxy server *(pars. 0009 and 0036-0038; recipient(s) can*

access the attachment(s) directly through Client Information Management Web Interface;

the recipient can modify the file(s) in his/her local machine and check in the modified

version through e-mail or through Client Information Management Web Interface);

  receiving the one or more modifications to the file via the proxy representation

(pars. 0009 and 0038; the recipient can modify the file(s) in his/her local machine and

check in the modified version through e-mail or through Client Information Management

Web Interface); and

  wherein the proxy server updates the file by using the location information

contained in the proxy representation *(pars. 0009 and 0032-0033; adapter/server engine*

passes the attachment files or documents along with identification information (descriptor

and locator) to Project/Information Management Server; a unique attachment descriptor

and locator will be generated to identify the saved attachment, and the original e-mail will

include the newly created descriptor and locator in its message body and be sent to

recipients through normal mail servers);

wherein after the updating, when the file sharer accesses the file in the original

location, changes to the proxy representation made by the remote user are reflected in the

file in the original location *(pars. 0009, 0031-0034, and 0036-0038; Fig. 2; the recipient*

can modify the file(s) in his/her local machine and check in the modified version through

email; the Information Management server will store one master copy of the original

file(s), and all modification will be checked against the master version and get update;

[after the modified version is checked-in, the master version is updated with the modified

version]).

Gong does not explicitly disclose the proxy representation contains stored

credentials of the file sharer that are needed to access the file on the file source; and using

the credentials of the file sharer to update the file in the original location inside the internal

private network based on the modifications to the proxy representation received at the

proxy server.

However, in an analogous art, Rice discloses a method of distributing and

sharing computer data files, wherein the proxy representation contains stored credentials of

the file sharer that are needed to access the file on the file source *(Rice: pars. 0110-0115;*

Fig. 3; the originator of a document AppLink may specify, for example, whether a remote

client accessing the document may alter the document and whether a password will be

required in order to access the data file being linked; checkbox 153 and password text-box

158); and using the credentials of the file sharer to update the file in the original location

inside the internal private network based on the modifications to the proxy representation

received at the proxy server *(Rice: pars. 0110-0115, 0163-0166, and 0121-0125; Figs. 3b*

and 5; remote client enters password in text box 220 to access [and/or alter] the

document).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Rice with the method and system

of Gong, wherein the proxy representation contains stored credentials of the file sharer that

are needed to access the file on the file source; and using the credentials of the file sharer to

update the file in the original location inside the internal private network based on the

modifications to the proxy representation received at the proxy server to provide users with

means for managing of document sharing and collaborating *(Rice: par. 0019).*

- **Regarding claim 2**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and Rice further disclose accessing the credentials comprises accepting the

credentials from the file sharer *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0033; users can access and change*

the environment setting by login through Client Information Management Web Interface;

Rice: pars. 0110-0115, 0163-0166, and 0121-0125).

- **Regarding claim 3**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and Rice further discloses accessing the credentials comprises retrieving

previously stored credentials *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0033; Rice: pars. 0110-0115, 0163-*

0166, and 0121-0125).

- **Regarding claim 4**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and Rice further disclose using the credentials to store a cached copy of the file in association with the proxy representation *(Gong: pars. 0009, 0031, and 0033-0036; Rice: pars. 0110-0115, 0163-0166, and 0121-0125).*

- **Regarding claim 5**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and Rice further disclose storing the credentials in association with the proxy representation *(Gong: par. 0009 and 0034; permission to access the Client Information Management Web Interface will be administrated by the original email creator; IMS will manage and log all check-in, checkout and modification activities related to the attachment; Rice: pars. 0155-0156; Fig. 12).*

- **Regarding claim 6**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses accepting a view request from the remote user *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0035-0036; Fig. 2)*; and enabling the remote user to view the file *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036; Fig. 2).*

- **Regarding claim 7**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses accepting a share request from the remote user *(Gong: pars. 0009, 0020-0021, and 0029; Fig. 2; mail client sends a messages with attachment to a recipient)*; and enabling the remote user to share the file with a third party *(Gong: pars. 0009, 0021-0023, 0031-0036; Fig. 2; recipient gets the message and requires downloading the attached file(s)).*

- **Regarding claim 8**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses accepting an email request from the remote user *(Gong:*

pars. 0009 and 0029); and transmitting an email associated with the file *(Gong: pars. 0009*

and 0029).

- **Regarding claim 11**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

   Gong further discloses the request comprises a request generated by:

   viewing a representation of the file within a graphical user interface *(Gong: pars.*

0009 and 0029; a dynamic link of all projects (attachment related) to which a user

subscribed will be conveniently displayed on email or web-mail client interface);

   selecting the representation of the file within the graphical user interface *(Gong:*

pars. 0009 and 0029; user sends emails with attachments through email client interface

(Outlook, etc.) or web browser based web-mail client interface (Hotmail, etc.));

   viewing a menu associated with the file, the menu displaying actions that can be

performed on the file *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029)*; and

   selecting a share option from the menu *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029)*.

- **Regarding claim 13**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

   Gong further discloses generating the proxy representation comprises generating

a proxy representation configured to enable the remote user to read the file *(Gong: pars.*

0009, 0033-0034, and 0038).

- **Regarding claim 15**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

   Gong further discloses determining if a database entry associated with the

remote user is stored on an account database *(Gong: pars. 0009, 0030, and 0033)*.

- **Regarding claim 16**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 15.

    Gong further discloses storing the proxy representation in association with the

database entry associated with the remote user in response to a positive determination

(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029-0036; after successfully logging into user's email account, the

user is able to either send email with attachments or downloading the attached file).

- **Regarding claim 19**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

    Gong further discloses accepting a retrieval request from the remote user *(Gong:*

pars. 0009 and 0035-0038).

- **Regarding claim 20**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 19.

    Gong and Rice further disclose using the credentials to retrieve the file *(Gong:*

pars. 0009 and 0033-0037; Rice: pars. 0110-0115, 0163-0166, and 0121-0125).

- **Regarding claim 21**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 19.

    Gong and Rice further discloses the retrieval request includes authentication

information for the remote user *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0033-0037; Rice: pars. 0110-0115,*

0163-0166, and 0121-0125).

- **Regarding claim 22**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 19.

    Gong further discloses providing access to a cached version of the file *(Gong:*

pars. 0009 and 0036-0038).

- **Regarding claim 23**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 19.

Gong further discloses accepting a modification request from the remote user

(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038).

- **Regarding claim 24**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 23.

    Gong further discloses the modification request includes authentication

information *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038)*.

- **Regarding claim 25**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 23.

    Gong further discloses using the credentials to modify the file *(Gong: pars. 0009*

and 0036-0038).

- **Regarding claim 26**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 23.

    Gong further discloses modifying a cached version of the file in response to the

modification request *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038)*; and notifying the file sharer that

the cached version has been modified *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0038; all users having rights*

to access the attachments will receive email notifications for any version or content update

of a file).

- **Regarding claim 27**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 26.

    Gong further discloses synchronizing the file with the cached version in response

to a request from the file sharer *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038)*.

- **Regarding claim 28**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 25.

Gong further discloses notifying the file sharer that the file has been modified *(Gong: pars. 0009 and 0038; all users having rights to access the attachments will receive email notifications for any version or content update of a file)*.

- **Regarding claim 29**, claim 29 is similar in scope to claim 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 30-36**, claims 30-36 are similar in scope to claims 2-8 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 39**, claim 39 is similar in scope to claim 11, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 41**, claim 41 is similar in scope to claim 13, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 43-44**, claims 43-44 are similar in scope to claims 15-16 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 47-56**, claims 47-56 are similar in scope to claims 19-28 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 57**, claim 57 is similar in scope to claims 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 58-64**, claims 58-64 are similar in scope to claims 2-8, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 67**, claim 67 is similar in scope to claim 11, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 69**, claim 69 is similar in scope to claim 13, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 71-72**, claims 71-72 are similar in scope to claims 15-16 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 75-84**, claims 75-84 are similar in scope to claims 19-28, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 91**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

  Rice further discloses notifying the file sharer prior to updating the file in the original location to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation *(Rice: pars. 0167 and 0186-0189; Figs. 40, 40B-40C, and 42; Applink Access Notification)*.

- **Regarding claim 92**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

  Rice further discloses the proxy server, after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server *(Rice: pars. 0110-0115, 0163-0166, and 0121-0125)*.

- **Regarding claims 93-94**, claims 93-94 are similar in scope to claims 91-92 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 95-96**, claims 95-96 are similar in scope to claims 91-92 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

19. **Claims 9-10, 37-38, and 65-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Gong and Rice, as applied to claims 1, 29, and 57 above, and further in view of DeBry, U.S. Patent No. 6,385,728, issued on May 07, 2002.

- **Regarding claim 9**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

  Gong and Rice do not explicitly disclose accepting a print request from the remote user; and transmitting a print request associated with the file to a remote print service

  However, in an analogous art, DeBry discloses a method for retrieving a file from a file source including the steps of accepting a print request from the remote user *(DeBry: col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5; wherein at least step 515)*; and transmitting a print request associated with the file to a remote print service *(DeBry: col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5; wherein at least step 520-525)*.

  Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of DeBry with the method and system of Gong and Rice to include step of accepting a print request from the remote user; and transmitting a print request associated with the file to a remote print service to enable a client system to pass authorization, received from a file source, to a printer to retrieve and

print a file directly from the file source without the client system ever receiving a copy of the file *(DeBry: abstract; col. 1, lines 29-33)*.

- **Regarding claim 10**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and Rice do not explicitly disclose accepting a fax request from the remote user; and transmitting a fax request associated with the file to a remote fax service

However, in an analogous art, DeBry discloses a method for retrieving a file from a file source including the steps of accepting a fax request from the remote user *(DeBry: col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; col. 12, lines 14-21; Figs. 1, 4, and 5; wherein at least step 520-525; a fax machine may be understood to be a printer in the context of this invention)*; and transmitting a fax request associated with the file to a remote fax service *(DeBry: col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; col. 12, lines 14-21; Figs. 1, 4, and 5; wherein at least step 520-525; a fax machine may be understood to be a printer in the context of this invention)*.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of DeBry with the method and system of Gong and Rice to include the steps of accepting a fax request from the remote user; and transmitting a fax request associated with the file to a remote fax service to enable a client system to pass authorization, received from a file source, to a printer to retrieve and print a file directly from the file source without the client system ever receiving a copy of the file *(DeBry: abstract; col. 1, lines 29-33)*.

20. **Claims 17-18, 45-46, and 73-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being

unpatentable over Gong and Rice, as applied to claims 1, 29, and 57 above, and further in

view of Jhingan et al., (hereinafter "Jhingan"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0186851,

filed on March 21, 2003.

- **Regarding claim 17**, Gong and Rice disclose the method of claim 15.

    Gong and Rice do not explicitly disclose generating a new database entry

associated with the proxy representation for the remote user in response to a negative

determination.

    However, in an analogous art, Jhingan discloses a method for email attachment

distribution, wherein generating a new database entry associated with the proxy

representation for the remote user in response to a negative determination *(Jhingan: par.*

0057; in situation where the recipient system 102 does not exits, then a new user profile is

created for which the user can submit a password and preferred location for future

deliveries).

    Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Jhingan with the method and

system of Gong and Rice to include the steps of generating a new database entry associated

with the proxy representation for the remote user in response to a negative determination to

provide user with a means for enabling collaboration through large email attachment

(Jhingan: par. 0008).

- **Regarding claim 18**, Gong Rice, and Jhingan disclose the method of claim 17.

  Jhingan further discloses transmitting an email containing a registration key to the remote user *(Jhingan: par. 0034; the locator object may be embedded as a linked object with the email and sent to a recipient system 102; the attachment associated with the locator code may be downloaded from a server to the recipient system 102).*

  Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Jhingan with the method and system of Gong and Rice to include the steps of transmitting an email containing a registration key to the remote user to provide user with a means for enabling collaboration through large email attachment *(Jhingan: par. 0008).*

- **Regarding claims 45-46**, claims 45-46 are similar in scope to claims 17-18, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 73-74**, claims 73-74 are similar in scope to claims 17-18, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luu Pham whose telephone number is 571-270-5002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Emmanuel L. Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Luu Pham/
Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Emmanuel L. Moise/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2437